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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts, Heaven and Earth are filled with Your glory. Lord, You have given us the hope that Your kingdom shall come on Earth. Help us to see the signs of its dawning as we labor for liberty.

May the work and deliberations of our lawmakers so reflect the nature of Your coming kingdom that people will be filled with faith.

Increase our hunger and thirst for righteousness, and feed us with the bread of Heaven. Lord, empower us all to work for that perfect day when Your will shall be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, November 30, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,  
President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following leader remarks, the Senate will be in morning business until 10:30 a.m. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1867. The filing deadline for second-degree amendments to the Defense bill is 10:30 a.m. today. At about 11 o'clock, there will be a cloture vote on S. 1867.

It is my understanding the vote will be at 11 o'clock. Is that right, Madam President? It is not about 11, it will be at 11.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

Mr. REID. We will continue working through the pending amendments. Senators LEVIN and MCCAIN are managers of this bill, and Senators will be notified when votes are scheduled. There was a little void here from 10:30 until the vote. That will be debate time on the motion to invoke cloture on the Defense bill.

### PAYROLL TAX CUTS

Mr. REID. Madam President, Republicans love to talk about taxes. They like them low, we like them high—or so they would have you believe. By that logic, Republicans ought to be lining up to support our payroll tax legislation. Democrats propose we cut taxes

for 160 million Americans and every single business in our country. The average American family would save about \$1,500. Yet Republicans appeared out of the woodwork to oppose our plan. They do not like these particular tax cuts because they are paid for with a small, 3.25-percent surtax on people making more than \$1 million a year. But we have learned that Republicans only care about keeping taxes low for a very small group of people. This small group is the richest of the rich.

Here is the contrast. One side has Democrats fighting to cut taxes for 160 million Americans who make an average of less than \$30,000 a year. On the other side, we have Republicans fighting to keep taxes low for fewer than 350,000 people who take home more than \$3 million every year. The contrast: 160 million Americans who make an average of less than \$30,000 a year; on the other side, Republicans are fighting to keep taxes low for the richest of the rich—350,000 people who make more than \$3 million a year.

What is worse, if Republicans get their way, if they are able to give the richest of the rich a pay increase, in effect, taxes will actually increase by about \$1,000 a year for 120 million American families. Every American family will have \$1,000 less to spend on food, clothing, and diapers next year—except those 350,000 people.

Republicans can continue to try to protect people who earn an average of \$3 million apiece. We are not going to do that, not in today's economy. In other words, Republicans are increasing taxes on nearly every American family to protect people who make an average of \$37,500 a week—far more than most Americans make in a year. You can take Nevada, you can take Kentucky—take Kentucky, the home of my friend the Republican leader. There, 2.1 million middle-class workers will be hit with a tax increase if the Republicans block our proposal. In Nevada, we have fewer people than Kentucky, but the same basically applies

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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